

Advertisements.

GRAND CAFE CHANTANT.

Under the Distinguished Patronage of
H.E. the Governor Sir W. ROBINSON,
H.E. Major-General BLACK, C.B.,
and
Commodore G. H. ROYES, R.N.

GLEES, PART SONGS AND SOLOS
by the most of the
LEADING AMATEURS IN THE COLONY.

ST. ANDREW'S HALL, (CITY HALL)
TODAY
(THURSDAY), 16th May, 1895,
AT 9 P.M.

IN AID OF THE
KOWLOON SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS'
INSTITUTE BUILDING FUND.

Conductor.....Mr. G. LAMBERT.
Accompanist.....Mr. F. WYMOORE, R.N.

ADMISSION 1/- 2/-
(Including Tea, Coffee, Ices, &c.)
TICKETS at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH'S, Ltd.
Hongkong, 16th May, 1895. [628]

VICTORIA CHAPTER.

No. 525, E.C.

AN EMERGENCY CONVOCATION of the
above CHAPTER will be held in the
FREEMASONS' HALL, Zealand Street, on MON-
DAY, the 27th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m.
precisely. Visiting Companions are cordially
invited to attend.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1895. [651]

"UNION" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM HAMBURG AND STRAITS.

THE Steamship

"SPECIALIST"

having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees
of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods
are being landed at their risk into the Godowns
of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and
Godown Company, Kowloon, whence delivery
may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all claims must be
sent in to the Office of the Underwriter before
Noon on the 23rd instant, or they will not be
recognized.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are
to be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on the 23rd instant, at 4 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected, and any
Goods remaining in the Godowns after the 23rd
instant, will be subject to rent.

Consignees will be required to sign an
AVERAGE BOND before taking delivery of their
Cargo.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
SHEWAN & Co.,
Agents. [654]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM CALCUTTA, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship

"ARRATON APCAR"

having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees
of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods
will be delivered from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge or remaining
on board after the 20th instant, will be landed at
Consignees' risk and expense into the Godowns
of the Wanchai Warehouse and Storage Com-
pany, Limited, Wanchai.

Consignees of Cargo from SINGAPORE and
PENANG are requested to take IMMEDIATE
delivery of their Goods from alongside, such
Cargo impeding the discharge of the vessel will
be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and
expense.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,
Agents. [653]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY, FOCHOW AND TAMSUI.

(Tamsui Cargo to be transhipped in AMOY.)
THE Company's Steamship

"NAMO,"

Captain Roach, will be despatched for the above
Ports on SUNDAY, the 19th instant, at Day-
light.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
DOUGLAS, LARSEN & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1895. [650]

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.

THE Company's Steamship

"WINGSANG,"

Captain J. Young, will be despatched as above
on TUESDAY, the 21st instant, at Noon,
and as previously advertised.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1895. [656]

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR NAGASAKI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Steamship

"GLAMORGANSHIRE,"

Captain H. N. Vyvyan, will be despatched as above
on or about THURSDAY, the 23rd inst.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
DODWELL, CARILL & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1895. [649]

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR LONDON, VIA SUEZ CANAL.

THE Company's Steamship

"HECTOR,"

Captain Hutchings, will be despatched as above
on MONDAY, the 27th instant.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1895. [655]

Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL CITY HALL.

Lessee & Manager.....Mr. SAVILLE SMITH.
Stage Manager.....Mr. W. G. CARRY.

GRAND FARICAL COMEDY SEASON.

FUN!! FUN!! FUN!!!

TO-NIGHT (THURSDAY), 16th May,
F. C. BURNARD'S LAUGHABLE FARICAL
COMEDY,
"BETSY."

TO-MORROW (FRIDAY), 17th May,
DERRICK'S most Successful and Amusing
FARICAL COMEDY,
"CONFUSION."

Prices as Usual. Soldiers and Sailors in
Uniform half-price to Back Seats only. Doors
open at 8.30 P.M., commence at 9 o'clock.

A Special Tram will run to the Peak after the
Performances.

Box Office at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH'S,
Hongkong, 16th May, 1895. [632]

FOR KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Steamship

"AZAMOR,"

Captain H. Nicholls, will be despatched for the
above Ports on SATURDAY, the 18th instant,
at Daylight, instead of as previously advertised.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA,
Hongkong, 16th May, 1895. [638]

FOR VLADIVOSTOK,

VIA SHANGHAI AND NAGASAKI.

(Taking Cargo at through rates to CORREA
PORTS).

THE Steamship

"PORT ADELAIDE,"

Captain B. Morgan, will be despatched as above
on MONDAY, the 20th instant, at 5 P.M.,
instead of as previously advertised.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA,
Hongkong, 16th May, 1895. [636]

Intimations.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & COMPANY, LIMITED.

VICTORIA DISPENSARY, HONGKONG.

AERATED WATERS.

SODA WATER.

LEMONADE.

GINGER ALE.

SARSAPARILLA.

RASPBERRYADE, &c.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & Co.'s WATERS are
made under the constant supervision of a duly
qualified English Chemist and will bear com-
parison with the best English Manufacturers.

Special terms to HOTELS, CLUBS, RESTAURANTS
and other Large Consumers.

Any complaints should be addressed to the
Manager.

Hongkong, 3rd May, 1895. [67]

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

ALL these are Selected by our London

House, bought direct at first hand,
imported in Wood and Bottled by ourselves,
thus saving all intermediate profits and enabling
us to supply the best growths at moderate
prices.

PRICE LISTS, WITH FULL DETAILS, TO BE HAD
ON APPLICATION.

PORT:—After removal should be kept, a

month before use. When required, for
drinking at once it should be ordered to be
decanted at the Dispensary before being
sent out.

SHERRY:—Excellent dinner and after dinner

Wines, of very superior vintage. All are
true Xeres Wines.

CLARET:—Our Claret, including the lowest

prices, are guaranteed to be the genuine
product of the juice of the grape and are not
artificially made from raisins and currants,
as is generally the case with Cheap Wines.

BRANDY:—All our Brandy is guaranteed

to be pure Cognac, the difference in price
being merely a question of age and vintage.

WHISKY:—All our Whisky is of excellent

quality and of greater age than most brands
in the market. The Scotch Whisky named
"J.B." is especially popular and is pro-
duced by the best local distillers to be
superior to any other brand in the
Hongkong Market.

We only guarantee our Wines and Spirits to
be genuine when bought direct from us in the
Colony or from our authorized Agents at the
Colon Ports.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 9th January, 1895. [65]

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1895.

THE CRISIS IN JAPAN.

HAD we not been in a position yesterday
to furnish our readers, at considerable
cost, with very interesting details of
an Imperial Decree recently issued by
the Mikado, Reuter's message published
in another part of this issue would have
only had the effect of making us
wonder why the Japanese populace should,
so long after the exchange of the ratifica-
tions of the Li-Ito Treaty of Peace, show
symptoms of rebelling against the wise
decision of their Government, and seek to
wreak their vengeance on the representa-
tives of foreign Powers, who have
merely acted on instructions received from
their various Governments. Our special
"wire" throws considerable light on
the subject, and serves to make good the
shortcomings of Reuter's message. It
shows us, *inter alia*, that the Government
of the Mikado have kept a firm hand
on the vernacular Press during the delicate
negotiations carried on at Shimoda and
later at Peking, and that the
truth about foreign interference was
never allowed to be made known among
the people, through the public press, and
further, that the Japanese Government
knowing "a little knowledge is a dangerous
thing" and being aware that more or less
exaggerated reports of the cause and
effect of the intervention of Russia,
Germany and France had reached the
masses through the medium of the
foreign press, determined, if possible, to
give the lie to unscrupulous agitators and
set out, once for all, the truth before the
whole nation.

The issue of the Decree was, of course,
also determined upon for another and very
important reason, namely, the vindication
of the policy pursued by Japan during the
war, and since the declaration of an
armistice and the virtual cessation of
hostilities. That has now been done in a
thoroughly satisfactory manner as far
as foreign nations are concerned, and
one can but admire the high moral
tone of the policy pursued by the
Mikado, and we shall doubtless find
when the full text of this Decree is
received here that it is not the least
among the many brilliant achievements
of the statesmen who guide the 'ship of
state' in Dai Nippon.

That the populace of Tokio should have
threatened to destroy the foreign legations
is a regrettable as it is surprising, for there
is, apparently, no more justification for an
outburst of public indignation than there
would be for the occupation of Formosa.
By the seasoned warriors of *la belle
France* or any obstruction on her part to
the peaceful occupation by Japan of
that hitherto grossly misgoverned island.
These are, briefly, the points which occur
to us as worthy of note in connection with
Reuter's message, and we therefore
reserve the expression of more decided
opinions on the cause and effect of the
retrocession of Liaoting peninsula until
further important details come to hand
from Japan in the near future.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

A FRESH CRISIS IN JAPAN.

LONDON, May 15th.

The Times' Tokyo correspondent writes that
the people are greatly excited and intensely
disappointed at the Japanese Government giving
up their claim to the Liaoting peninsula.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN DANGER.

The foreign Ministers and the Legations in
Tokio are guarded by Japanese troops.

THE ARMENIAN ATROCITIES.

The Commission appointed to enquire into
the Armenian atrocities has discovered that
at Hama where the victims of the massacres
were buried.

HEAVY RAIN.

Ozma Wilde has been possessed on heavy
rain—herself, 2.500 and her brother of 1.500
each.

LORD ROSEBURY'S RESIGNATION DENIED.

The statement respecting Lord Rosebury's
impending resignation is denied.

THE AMIR'S SON.

The London Common Council has voted
£1,500 to be spent in establishing Sardar
Ullah, the second son of the Amir of Afghanistan,
who should arrive in London early.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

We hear that His Excellency the Governor will
give a dance at Government House on the
night of Queen's birthday.

We understand that the 5th Anniversary of the
secession will be held at the Reposement, Happy
Valley, on the 28th proximo.

The French steamer *Edouard*, Commander
Mandel, arrived here yesterday afternoon from
Halifax. She will be at sea on Monday.

A steamer, *Edouard*, will be at sea on Monday
for the Cape of Good Hope, and will be at sea
on Tuesday for the Cape of Good Hope, and will
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Departures.		
Loosik	steamer for	Swatow.
Palamid	"	"
Oakley	"	"
Pakshan	"	"
Choytan	"	"
Yam Melnich	"	"
Atk	"	"

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK RETURNS.		
Iron	in Kowloon Dock.	
Stanfield	"	"
Mongkai	"	"
Rina Cristina (cruiser)	"	"
Verona	"	"
Riversdale	"	"

We understand that Mr. Bishop, presser of the *Tasmania*, has been appointed presser of the Great Northern Steamship Company's steamer *Camagong*, which sails hence for Portland, on Saturday.

The steamer *Fokien*, which left Canton a few days ago for Tientsin, has landed her cargo of 800 "braves" safely on the snug shores of the "Beautiful Isle." These men have been sent to help in order upwads of 50,000 disaffected and half-starved Imperial troops, but it is highly probable they will throw in their lot with the "Black Flags" and make things "hum" in the sweet by and by.

THE GREAT POWERS TO JAPAN.

We publish these few lines, from the *Yokohama Mail*, in fear and trembling. They may have already appeared in the columns of the *China Mail* and have escaped our notice in spite of most diligent search. If so, we will save our hypercritical contemporaries the apology of not having seen it, for we particularly desire to avoid a repetition of the memorable *Free Press* salvo.

Not to be taken as:
"Force is triumphant;
All through the world,
Still in the day of triumph."

Salvo Japan! We seven, the sovereign Powers, Great three compeers, for a while they name with us.

United States, Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. Henceforth the world-state we share with these—Japan the Great.

For years on years, the march-working art. Thy homelands, land and sea of hand and heart. Have borne thy name to fame in many a land. Proud thee thy name, won thee wide command. But not for thee, in me this equal place. Allow with us in lordship of man's race. The week we work, triumphantly in force. The globe around the marcher still in force. The conquering hand that strikes to make, to kill.

Institute your, show Thor the world-and still. These test claim to wear the human crown. When pillars swayed are badge of true renown. Commanding these, we scored by tranquil years.

We set at naught thy peaceful hopes and prayers. But now, these held by thee with ruthless might. Prove thee our peer; the crown is thine by right. America, thick strewn with Red Men dead; India's wide plains, by Hindu blood washed red.

Hot Africa's jungles, trailed by dying slaves; Great Asia's heights and ravines, foul with graves. The lake of Southern seas, a gory prey; The whole earth round, the aggressor's unstoppage way.

This we have wrought, we, world-compelling Powers; Like having wrought, Japan, we halt thee here. Place for Japan! Our throne and rod of state. We share henceforth, with thee, Japan, now Great.

So boast these haughty Potentates; and yet, Amid their proud acclama, none may forget. That o'er them each, illumine the bannered word Of Him whom they profess their Sovereign Lord.

Word given for all men at the meek Christ's birth, "Glory to God! Goodwill and Peace on Earth."

CLAY MACCAULEY.
Tokyo, April 20th, 1895.

THE AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA.

The agreement between the Governments of Great Britain and Russia with regard to the spheres of influence of the two countries in the region of the Pamirs (dated March 18th, 1895) was laid upon the table of the House of Commons on the 15th April.

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NETHERLANDS INDIA.

OFFICIAL OPIUM FARMING: THE SUGAR DUTY, ETC.

Statistical returns regarding the Netherlands Indies, just made public in Holland, show that one-third of the imports into the islands come from the Netherlands. Singapore stands next. In fact, Singapore is an important customer of the Netherlands Indies, and their trade with Singapore comes in value to very nearly one hundred millions of guilders a year. Beyond Java, the free ports of Macassar and Rho, and the export ports of Padang, Deli, and Ambon are the most frequented by shipping. In the shipping trade with foreign lands, the Dutch flag is distanced by the British flag, and the share of the German flag continually increases.

The policy of working the opium monopoly under Government management, as experimented with in the island of Madura, off the Java coast, has proved such a success, that the Governor-General, who had opposed the idea, now intends to extend it to three provinces in Java. The Government has found a way of packing and preparing the drug for consumption which effectually baffles smuggling. Soluble pills have been found to conduct the sale. The people themselves are said to be highly taken with the change from the Farmer's opium to the official article. The Government proposes to extend the new policy gradually and not to attempt too much at once, so as to have a better chance to guard against smuggling. The idea is that should further experiments on a larger scale prove an equal success, the Government will undertake on its own account the management of the opium monopoly throughout Netherlands India. The Minister for the Colonies has expressly declared that, if Government management should turn out to be better than the farmer's system, he would not hesitate, when the time came for it, to put an end to the system of farming. Last March, the Government sold in Madura 1,545 tons of the drug for 22,458 guilders. In March 1894, the figures were respectively: 1,550 tons and 20,475 guilders.

The Netherlands States-General have passed the Bill to suspend the sugar export duty in Java for one year. This duty comes to about 9 guilders a picul; and planters are now gleaning in that amount, besides what they may glean from the cost of production. But they look out for further extension of the Government in the direction of lowering the railway rates in Java, which are said to press heavily on the planters.

On the 2nd April, a Chinaman came to the Hongkong Bank office at Batavia to tell how two cheques, to the amount of 500 and 200 dollars, had been stolen from him. Hardly had he ended his story, when a letter arrived from the Chartered Bank office with the news that, there, a Chinaman had presented two cheques against the Hongkong Bank, which looked very suspicious. The police, on receiving information of this, immediately arrested the latter as being the thief.

Last month, one schooner, five cutters, and a steamer, owned by a British Company in Batavia, arrived at Padang on the west coast of Sumatra, with the intention of fishing for pearls there. The agent of the Company at Padang is a Hollander, who has taken steps to bribe these vessels under the Dutch flag, before starting on their operations.

At Padang, a town in West Sumatra, a fire has consumed eleven stores; the damage is estimated at 300,000 guilders. The dividend of the Deli-Batavia Planting Company for last year is said to reach 65 per cent. At Sourabaya on the 23rd April, a Madurese ran amuck and struck down four women and three men, of whom two were mortally wounded. The Court of Justice at Sourabaya has authorised the prosecution of Mallick, the Russian, for abetting the Rajah of Lombok against the Dutch during the recent troubles in that island. Forged gold Dutch pieces are in circulation at Batavia.

In the district of Banjaran in the province of Java (Java) 65 persons are officially stated to have been killed by tigers last year. Unofficial estimates make the number 100. Already this year tigers have killed about a dozen persons. The reward for killing a royal tiger there is now 100 guilders.

The German Consul-General at Batavia has been authorized by the Java Government to recruit 400 coolies for German New Guinea. The permission stipulates that the hours of labour shall be nine a day at the furthest. The Consul-General must lay the contracts before the provincial authorities for approval, under certain conditions which have to be strictly complied with as regards advances, medical inspection, and guarantees for good faith.

In Lombok at the date of last advice, malignant fever was very prevalent. This is ascribed to be partly in consequence of the recent war there, owing to the ground around the Dutch encampments having been largely disturbed for burying purposes during hostilities.

An Arab trader in Sourabaya has failed with liabilities amounting to 370,000 guilders. A German shipmaster from Bremen, named Von Beilmer, has called attention to piracy by the inhabitants of Tobo or Lord North's Island, one of the Moluccas to the N. E. of Gilolo. He relates how, a short time ago, he was selling about 12 miles from the island, a number of slaves started in pursuit of his ship, but the latter out-distanced them.

7,755 piculs of Billa on the sold by auction at Batavia on the 24th April, brought an average of 44.19 guilders a picul.—*Strait Times*.

BRITAIN AND FRANCE.

IMPORTANT SPEECH BY THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER.

In the French Senate during the first week of April, in consequence of the recent speech of Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons, M. Hanotaux was questioned by M. de Lamarzelle on the relations between England and France in Africa, and replied as follows:—

"The Moroccan and the Uganda affairs would already have been settled had there not been other difficulties between the two countries. The debate which has taken place in the House of Commons is of great importance, of a fresh incident, decisive or merely important, of a political or diplomatic order occurred, I should have understood the sudden emotion which appeared to be displayed in the House of Commons. But I can affirm that we are confronted by no event of that nature. Negotiations upon African affairs, which were begun some years ago, are still going on between Great Britain and France."

Last autumn, I devoted the greater part of my time to pursuing these negotiations with Lord Dufferin and Mr. Phipps. Quite recently the two Governments concluded an important convention relative to the frontiers of Sierra Leone, and some weeks ago the Queen's Government accorded a new Commissioner, Mr. Howard, to continue in line of Mr. Phipps, and in conformity with the engagements entered into in 1890, the *Anglo-French* relative to the delimitation of the border of the Niger, so that I have a right to say that diplomacy is pursuing its work. And I may feel authorized, in the declaration made in the House of Commons, to say that it appears to have been taken of this important fact, I ask myself why a sort of public grievance is raised against France on account of her late-

ness when it is not possible to be ignorant as to their character. As for the Upper Mekong, a mixed commission of geographical inquiry is at work in that country in the completest understanding. On the Niger there exists at present a disturbed condition, which appears to afford real matter for anxiety to those who are charged with the defence of the interests of the Chartered Company installed in those countries. Whatever may be the importance of that company it is, after all, only a private company. It exercises, indeed, an authority which has been for a long time the occasion of the severest criticism, not only in France, but in Germany and even in England. The Niger Company claims in those territories more or less effectively occupied by it to monopolize all the trade and to forbid all transit contrary to Articles 26, 27, and 30 of the international Act of Berlin. This attitude has been the occasion on our side of numerous complaints. The gravest of all is that which we have to formulate as to the confiscation of the Sergeant Malamine. To sum up, the question before us is that of the real bearing of the rights of the Niger Company. This point, like the others, is matter for discussion between us and the British Government. But that Government cannot be surprised that, backed by the Act of 1886, we should formally dispute the theses maintained by the Niger Company.

Now as to the question of the Upper Nile. Between the lake country and the point of Wady Halfa on the course of the Nile is a vast region covering some 200,000 square kilometers—that is, more than the French Empire. Here there is perhaps to-day not a single European—in any case there is no power there in any way dependent upon any European authority. It is the country of the Mehad. It is the destinies of this country that fill with an anxiety that may be called premature the minds of a certain number of people interested in Africa. The Egyptians, who for some time occupied this region, have gone back to the north. Enia Pasha himself had to abandon the place. The rights of the Sultan and the Khedive alone will hover over these regions of the Southern and Equatorial Africa. Yet in 1890 England, in sharing with Germany the dominions of the Sultan of Zanzibar, proceeded in the arrangement consecrating this division to one of those power annexations that a persevering diplomacy cultivates subsequently as the germs of claims and future titles. Germany, having, moreover, no right to claim to put forward in these regions, willingly gave its assent to a pretension which in no way troubled it. According to this new convention, the sphere of English influence extended on the right bank of the Nile up to the confines of Egypt. On the left bank no boundary was marked, and the sphere of influence necessary the new sphere of influence might embrace the whole basin, or at least the whole Upper Nile Valley, for both these terms are used alternately.

But this was a long way from the dominions of the Sultan of Zanzibar. As regards these dominions, the rights of France were directly infringed. She protested, and, after a discussion between the two Governments, an accord on this special point was concluded on August 5th, 1890. But France had not to discuss the articles of the Anglo-German convention relating to other parts of Africa. By the fact that she gave her assent to the Convention, she reserved her assent to the others. This, moreover, clearly appeared by what followed. On May 12th, 1891, England concluded a fresh convention with the Congo State, whereby the latter ceded on lease in perpetuity or temporarily a part of her vast territories. If that convention had stood it would, as Sir E. Grey remarks, have created a fresh argument in favour of the pretensions of England. But here, too, France intervened, the Congo State renounced the lease, and French rights on the Upper Ubanghi basin were acknowledged. England then again raised the question of the sphere of influence in the Upper Nile as inserted in the Convention of 1890. For the first time our consent was plainly asked. France did not refuse to enter into negotiations, and, at the request of the London Cabinet, she agreed to study in common the settlement of the whole African question. These negotiations, it is true, have not yet come to a result, but it is easy to understand the difficulties presented by such discussions, considering the extensiveness of the programme, the scarcity of exact information, and the precision required by definite formulae.

Here is the substance of the speech:— "The position taken up by France is as follows:—The regions in question are under the high sovereignty of the Sultan. If they have a legitimate master it is the Khedive. This being laid down, we said to the English Government: 'You declare that, in virtue of the Convention of 1890, England placed a portion of these territories in her zone of influence. Very well! let us know at least to what territories your claims apply. How far does it extend, this sphere of influence which, according to you, opens on the left bank of the Nile and which, according to you, knows whether northwards? In a word, offer us a vague, uncertain claim, formulated in terms which are open to various interpretations; you included in a single phrase the sphere of Egyptian influence and the sphere of English influence. Tell us, then, where Egypt stops and where the sphere which you claim begins. You desire at present, and as we think prematurely, that we should settle the future of these regions. Yet we wish to have our adhesion without even explaining to us to what we should adhere in such conditions. Do not be surprised that we refuse our acquiescence and reserve our liberty. Now, hitherto the French Government has not succeeded in obtaining any definite replies to clear and legitimate questions such as these. When, during recent negotiations, I pressed the British Government to reply to me, the *pourparlers* were interrupted. I can affirm here, that it was not the fault of the French Government."

M. Hanotaux then went on to the question of Sierra Leone as proof that all outstanding questions between the two countries can be settled with a little goodwill. "But if there is a desire to obtain a similar result (i.e., similar to the Sierra Leone Convention) with regard to the points that still remain in suspense, it is important to preserve the real character of those difficulties. Would it not be better worth while to abstain from public declarations, which I readily admit are only the exposition of the basis of one of the two parties, but which might render an accord impossible by closing the doors of every opening to discussion? Sir Edward Grey himself, in the statement made by him in the English Parliament, said that it was a question 'not of events accomplished, but only of the forestalling of those that might happen.' When I think of the immensity of the territories at stake and of the complete obscurity of the information we possess of what is going on there, I ask myself whether it really is not to begin 'forestalling' very early than to wish to arrange so far ahead by lines drawn on maps by one of those 'paper delimitations' of which Lord Salisbury speaks, which, moreover, in his idea were destined 'to prevent' conflicts, and not to give rise to them? As for me, at the moment when I am defending our rights based on facts, on measures which are scarcely friendly in order to close the discussion in advance within a narrow field in which it could not find an outlet, I ask myself whether it is not to begin 'forestalling' very early than to wish to arrange so far ahead by lines drawn on maps by one of those 'paper delimitations' of which Lord Salisbury speaks, which, moreover, in his idea were destined 'to prevent' conflicts, and not to give rise to them? 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